

# THE CHRIST CHILD

Across the snow the home lights glow  
From the myriad hearths alight,  
And through the street with noiseless  
feet  
The Christ-child walks tonight.

At silent gates, outside He waits,  
To find a fitting spot.  
He thins the shame, if through thy  
blame  
The Christ-child enters not.

Where joyous notes from children's  
throats  
The old glad song begin,  
Where love impels and kindness dwells,  
The Christ-child enters in.

Where hate has room, pride sits in  
gloom,  
And wrong invokes unrest,  
Though green the walls and bright the  
halls  
He cannot be a guest.

But where the thought that angels  
brought  
To earth's enraptured ears  
Good will to men and peace, again  
The Christ-child, listening, hears.

He turns His feet with welcome sweet,  
Enters, and there abides.  
Angels know best how such are blest  
Through all the Christmases.

## CHRISTMAS FACTS IN BRIEF

Day Celebrated as Christian Festival  
for Centuries—Holly Once  
a Sacred Plant.

Christmas day is the anniversary of  
the birth of Christ, and has been cele-  
brated as a Christian festival for sev-  
eral centuries. The Christmastide lasts  
from the 25th of December to the 6th  
of January, the twelfth day after  
Christ's nativity.

The origin of the Christmas tree is  
obscure; the thought of Christ as the  
Light of the World and the Tree of  
Life may have given rise to the light-  
bearing tree, or the popular old belief  
that every Christmas eve, trees bloss-  
omed and bore fruit, may have been  
the foundation of the custom.

Gift-giving is, of course, the echo  
of the Wise Men's gifts; and mince  
pie, turkey and plum puddings are  
modern relics of the pagan feasts.  
Santa Claus, known to every child in  
every land in this old world is the per-  
sonification of the spirit of loving and  
giving.

The holly, synonymous of Christ-  
mas, was a sacred plant, and the mis-  
tletoe a mysterious plant, supposed by  
the ancient Druids to have some mys-  
tic power of healing and preventing  
misfortune. It was never allowed to  
touch the ground, hence the modern  
superstition that it is unlucky for a  
mistletoe bough to fall from its place.  
It was dedicated to the Goddess of  
Love, which explains the custom of  
kissing under the mistletoe.

## A SEASONABLE SERMONETTE

- C Cheerfulness is a personal posses-  
sion, but you can
- H Hand some of it on to those whose  
weary, drab lives
- R Represent naught but a grim strug-  
gle to exist, whose
- I Inheritance is labour and sorrow  
—stranger to joy.
- S So, in kindly spirit, go forth, seek,  
and find some of
- T These joyless ones. Bring some  
cheer into their lives.
- M Make it a Christmas resolve that  
you will, out of your
- A Abundance or sufficiency, make,  
with kindly heart, the
- S Sun to shine at Christmas in one  
poor home at least.
- D Do this, and the deed shall bring  
you such sweet joy
- A And satisfaction that the remem-  
brance of it will make
- Y Your own Christmas a "happy"  
one in deed and in truth.

## YULETIDE.



Daughter—Say, pa, what do you  
want me to get you for Christmas?  
De Close—Well, if it's all the same  
to you, I'll just keep the money.

Christmas is not just a day  
of tree-trimming and toy-giving  
for the kiddies—not just a holi-  
day for youngsters to outgrow.  
Its spirit is of the heart, the soul  
—communal between us and all  
those whom we hold dear as  
our friends. It changes not,  
however we may. May its glow  
be reflected for you through all  
the coming year.

Christmas All the Year!  
Every time that Christmas comes  
around again we wonder why we  
haven't cultivated the Christmas spir-  
it all the year.

# Givers of Good Gifts

Select Jewelry as the Most Desirable Christ-  
mas Offering and Nowhere Will You  
Find a More Complete Line to  
Choose From Than At

Headquarters For  
Christmas  
Shoppers

HELM'S

Jewelry---the  
Gift That's  
Appreciated

Our Jewelry, China, Cut Glass, and Novelty  
Stocks were selected with the greatest care.  
In our store you will find a gift for all your  
loved ones, and friends. Gifts that are sure  
to please. We will be more than happy to  
help you make up your list.

T. R. Helms & Co.

F. Blacker, of Rockingham, pays highest cash prices for all kinds of Junk,  
Old Metal, Furs, Rubber, Hides, etc.

# FURS

All kinds of Furs  
Wanted, such as

Minks Skunks Fox Muskrats Coons 'Possum  
Otter Cats  
Horse-hides Mule-hides Cow-hides Other hides

# JUNK

All families have more or less JUNK; bring me any of the following:

Woolen Rags	Clothes	Mattresses	Old Sacks
Cotton Rags	QUILTS	Waste Cotton	Old Rags
Tallow	Old Rubber Shoes	Inner Tubes	
Beeswax	Automobile Tires	All kinds Rubber	
Brass	Zinc	Pewter	Old Iron
Lead	Copper	Aluminum	Horse Shoes
Magazines	Paper	Old Bones	Plow Points
Stoves	Boilers	Old Machinery	

# F. BLACKER

Phone 309

Rockingham, N. C.

Warehouse on Franklin street. Bring on any day, but preferably on Saturdays as I can always be found in the city on that day.

I have for sale at my warehouse, parts of all kinds of old Machinery, such as pulleys, parts for Auto-  
mobiles, Tires and Innertubes, as I buy all kinds of broken worn-out Automobiles. If you have one for sale,  
see me.

I will also take care of your dead horses, mules or cows for their hides, if you will notify me in time.  
I am in the market to buy Liberty Bonds, cotton mill stock or any other stock. See me before sell-  
ing yours. I have the cash.

I also buy all kind. of old and second-hand furniture.  
I have for sale second-hand stoves and heaters, either wood-burning or coal-burning.  
Also, I have automobile springs of all makes to sell. See me.

## MIRACLE OF THE THORN STAFF

Pretty Legend of Ancient Britain  
That is Often Repeated in Eng-  
land at Christmas Time.

It is one of the prettiest legends of  
ancient Britain—the old Christmas  
story of the thorn of Glastonbury.  
William of Malmesbury, the chronicler,  
told it hundreds of years ago in his  
"Antiquities of Glastonbury." It is re-  
peated often at Christmas time in  
England.

The legend tells how Joseph of Ari-  
mathea, was so persecuted by Pontius  
Pilate, because he had laid away the  
body of Christ in his sepulcher, that  
he fled to Gaul, carrying with him un-  
der a cloth of mystical white samite,  
the Holy Grail. In Gaul he found the  
Apostle Philip, preaching to the heath-  
en, and he rested with him a few days.

One night a radiant light awakened  
him, and an angel bade him go to  
Britain and preach the glad tidings to  
King Arrigatus; and, where a Christ-  
mas miracle should come to pass,  
there to build a church.

He and a band of followers fol-  
lowed the instructions of the angel,  
and Arrigatus gave them the Isle of  
Avalon, and bade them erect an altar  
there to the new God. It was a beau-  
tiful gift. The tiny isle lay warm in  
a verdant valley. Sparkling waves  
softly lapped its shore. Soft breezes  
played in its trees, and nowhere was  
the sky so blue as over Avalon.

When they reached the top of the  
hill called Weary All, Joseph planted  
his thorn staff he had carried with  
him on his long journeys over land  
and sea, deep into the ground, and lo  
it took root, and immediately there  
blossomed a bush of beautiful white  
flowers.

"This is where we will build our  
church," the good man said, and so,  
at Glastonbury Abbey—for so Avalon  
is known today—the thorn bushes  
bloom white at each Christmas time,  
lend their fragrance to the frosty air,  
and remind all who see them of the  
Christmas miracle.

## THE CURIOUS MISTLETOE

Something Like 300 Varieties in the  
World—Pink Berries Found Only  
on Cedar Trees.

There are about 300 kinds of mis-  
tletoe in the world, and each variety  
grows on the branches of trees and  
has little white or pink berries, says  
St. Nicholas. But the pink berries  
are found on only the cedar trees. The  
mistletoe, unlike other plants, gets no  
food directly from the ground. In-  
stead, it gets its nourishment from the  
trees on which it grows.

Another curious thing about the mis-  
tletoe is that though it blossoms ear-  
lier in the year than the tree on which  
it grows, yet the little berries do not  
ripen before December. Maybe that  
is because it has to steal its food from  
the trees, and therefore cannot ripen  
early. The very name "mistletoe"  
gives some idea of its insignificance.  
In the Anglo-Saxon language "mist"  
means gloom, and it comes in mid-win-  
ter, the gloomiest time of the year.

The gathering of mistletoe was a  
very important ceremony among the  
ancient Druids. About five days after  
the new moon they marched in state-  
ly procession to the forest and raised  
an altar of straw beneath the finest  
mistletoe-bearing oak they could find.  
The arch-Druid would ascend the oak,  
and, with a jeweled knife, remove the  
sacred mistletoe. The others stood be-  
neath the tree and caught the plant  
upon a white cloth, for, if a portion  
of it touched the earth, it was an omen  
of misfortune to the land.

And this is doubtless the reason why  
it is still the custom to hang it from  
the ceiling and why it is supposed to  
lose its charm if it touches the floor.

## MY CHRISTMAS TREE.

I  
O'n  
Christ-  
mas morn-  
ing when I  
wake and  
sleep-dust from  
my eyes I shake, I  
see a slight that  
makes me start and  
causes thumpings in my  
heart: A Christmas tree—  
oh, pretty sight—with can-  
dles, bells and balls alight.  
With horns and dolls and sugar  
plums, and skates and trains and  
beating drums. And, oh, it is a won-  
der tree, with heaps of things for  
me to see. Rare gifts hang upon  
the side, which tinselled fairies  
cannot hide. A soldier doll,  
a doll house, too, and  
strings of gold come to  
my view, and  
as I look  
I seem to  
hear sweet Christ-  
mas music, soft and clear.  
A merry Christmas, it seems to say.  
A merry, happy, holy day!

Squaring Himself.  
Last Christmas a young man was  
invited to dinner at the house of one  
of the leading men in the town. At  
the dinner table he was placed op-  
posite a goose.

The lady of the house was seated  
on the young man's left. Seeing the  
goose, he remarked:

"Shall I sit so close to the goose?"  
Finding his words a bit equivocal,  
he turned round to the lady and said,  
in a most inoffensive tone:

"Excuse me, Mrs. Blank, I meant  
the roast one."

Christmas Thanks.  
For little children everywhere  
A joyous season still we make,  
And bring our precious gifts to them  
Even for the dear child Jean's sake.  
—Cory.

## PRETTY LEGEND OF CHRIST

Old-Folk Tale Relates That Stars  
Danced and Birds Sang on Day  
of His Birth.

When the child of Nazareth was  
born, according to the Bosnian  
legend, "leaped in the heavens and  
the stars around it danced. A peace  
came over mountain and forest. Even  
the rotten stump stood straight and  
healthy on the green hillside. The  
grass was bedewed with open bloss-  
oms, incense sweet as myrrh pervad-  
ed upland and forest, birds sang on  
the mountain top and all gave thanks  
to the great God."

It is naught but an old-folk tale, but  
it has truth hidden at its heart, for a  
strange, subtle force, a spirit of gen-  
eral good will, a new-born kindness,  
seem to animate child and man alike  
when the world pays its tribute to the  
"heaven-sent youngling," as the poet,  
Drummond, calls the infant Christ.

When the three wise men rode from  
the east into the west on their sad-  
dle-bows were three caskets filled with  
gold and frankincense and myrrh, to  
be laid at the feet of the manger-  
cradled babe of Bethlehem. Begin-  
ning with this old, old journey the  
spirit of giving crept into the world's  
heart. As the magi came bearing  
gifts, so do we also; gifts that re-  
lieve want, gifts that are sweet and  
fragrant with friendship, gifts that  
breathe love, gifts that mean service,  
gifts inspired still by the star that  
shone over the City of David 2,000  
years ago.

Then hang the green coronet of the  
Christmas tree with glittering baubles  
and jewels of flames; heap offerings  
on its emerald branches; bring Yule  
logs to the firing; deck the house with  
holly and mistletoe.

"And all the bells on earth shall ring  
On Christmas day in the morning."  
—Kate Douglas Wiggin.

## TO TRIM A CHRISTMAS TREE

Pretty Trimmings and Decorations  
Can Be Made in Almost Any Home  
at Slight Expense.

As to trimming the Christmas tree,  
first of all, don't trim your tree with  
cotton batting and lighted candles, as  
there is always danger in this combi-  
nation, and "safety first" should be the  
slogan in all Christmas festivities.

You can purchase a whole lot of  
pretty decorations for your tree at the  
shops, and these come very cheaply,  
too. But almost any home can furnish  
the decorations for a really lovely tree  
without very much expense, and there  
is no reason why every family where  
there are children should not have  
their Christmas tree.

Strings of popcorn and red cran-  
berries looped from the branches  
make an effective decoration. And  
strings of yellow field corn gleam beau-  
tifully in the Christmas light. Cres-  
cents, stars and hearts cut from heavy  
cardboard and covered with silver and  
gold, or even colored paper, and cornu-  
copias of bright colors filled with  
candy and popcorn are very pretty.  
Form cotton batting into balls the size  
of an orange and cover with orange-  
colored crepe paper, twist tightly and  
tie to the tree with a bit of narrow rib-  
bon. These are pretty on the tree and  
look like oranges.

It is best to place all the larger  
packages under the tree, tying only  
the smaller gifts which are tied up in  
bright-colored paper to the branches.  
In this way the tree will not look  
frayed and denuded when the gifts are  
distributed, and it may be kept a long  
time for the children to enjoy.

## USE OF EVERGREENS.

The use of evergreens at Christmas  
time is older than the Christmas tree,  
the Christians seeming to have copied  
it from their pagan ancestors. In a  
very old book we find this reference to  
the use of evergreens at Christmas  
time: "Against the feast of Christ-  
mas every man's house, as also their  
parish churches, were decked with  
holme, ivy, bayes, and whatsoever the  
season of the year afforded to be  
green. The conduits and standards of  
the streets were likewise garnished;  
among which I read that in the  
year 1414, by tempest of thunder and  
lightning, toward the morning of Can-  
delmas day, at the Leadenhall, in  
Cornhill, a standard of tree, being set  
in the midst of the pavement, fast  
in the ground, nalled full of holme and  
ivy, for disport of Christmas to the  
people, was torn up and cast down by  
the malignant spirit (as was thought),  
and the stones of the pavement all  
about were cast in the streets and into  
divers houses, so that the people were  
sore agast at the great tempest."

## HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS.

Oh! lovely voices of the sky  
Which hymned the Savior's birth,  
Are ye not singing still on high,  
Ye that sang "Peace on earth?"  
To us yet speak the strains  
Wherewith in time gone by  
Ye blessed the Syrian swains,  
Oh! voices of the sky!

Oh! clear and shining light whose beams  
That hour heaven's glory shed,  
Around the palms and o'er the streams,  
And on the shepherd's head,  
Be near, through life and death,  
As in that holiest night  
Of hope and joy and faith—  
Oh! clear and shining light!  
—Felicja Hemans.

## A Rather Vague Order.

A Wisconsin boy wrote to Santa  
Claus as follows: "I would like a air  
ride, a pair of Indinloves a mouth or-  
gan a christmas tree and some candy  
and nuts that is all a gatae of check-  
ers for." It's a little vague, but we  
hope Santa will be able to fill the  
order.